

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application. This amendment is being filed concurrent with a Request for Continued Examination and an Information Disclosure Statement.

Claims 1, 6-41 and 43-55 are pending in the application. Claims 29-40 have been allowed. Acknowledgement of the allowability of claims 5-8, and 42 is noted with appreciation. By this amendment claims 2-5 and 42 are canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 5 and the intervening claims 2-4. Claim 41 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 42. Further amendments to claims 1 and 5 find support at page 11, lines 4-6 of the specification, and these amendments were made in order to address issues raised in the corresponding Japanese application.

Claims 6 and 8 have been amended to not depend on a canceled claim.

No new matter is believed to have been added to the application by this amendment.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1, 9-17, 41 and 43-48 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over SLYK in view of MATOS et al. Claims 2, 4, 8-24, 26-28 and 49-55 have been rejected

under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over SLYK, MATOS et al. and SAROFEEEN. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 41 have been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from canceled claims 5 and 42, respectively, thereby mooting the rejections of these claims. Claims depending upon claims 1 or 41 are patentable over the applied art for at least this reason.

These rejections are believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 7, 2004 and for making an initialed PTO-1449 Form of record in the application.

Prior art of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

The rejections are believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot and that no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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